

SECRET

* SECRET *
* AUTH; OG 15 AF *
* INIT JJA *
* 10 March 1945 *

D-JCR-ag

10 March 1945
USA/SKP/667

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE

APO 520, U. S. ARMY

ESCAPE STATEMENT

1. Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt., 31307604, 760th B. Sqdn.
460th B. Gp.

Born – 15 October 1914 Enlisted – 1 April 1943

Home Address – 193 London St., East Boston, Mass.

MIA – 30 June 1944 RTD – 9 March 1945

Number of Missions - 40

Number of Sorties - 32

2. On his way to the target, box of source's A/C was separated from the rest of the formation by bad weather. They were attacked by ME 110's (source saw 12, but there may have been more, as visibility was poor). Source knows four Enemy A/C were shot down, out of total of five. In case of source's A/C, source was wounded, interphone was shot out, tail gunner got

-1-
SECRET

SECRET

Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt. USA/SKP/667 (continued)

one ME 110, and No. 2 engine caught on fire, in that order. The entire section of wing caught, then source saw fire in the bomb bay. Source believes bomb load had been salvoed.

Source ripped off his flak suit, and went back to get the tail gunner out. On his way he tried to open the camera hatch but it would not open. It had been in good condition at the time of take-off, but source thinks it had been welded shut by heat or jammed by fragments. Source got back to the rear, and found the gunner dead and turret damaged by gunfire. Then he turned back in the tail of the A/C, flames were right in his face.

Source fought his way back to the waist and got his parachute which had been wrapped in a flak suit. The other waist gunner was standing there in the flames, seemingly paralyzed by fear, wearing his flak suit. Source motioned to him to get his chute, but got no response. Source started out waist window, but got stuck, being held partly by centrifugal force. The other waist gunner then pushed him out. Source was semi-conscious, but believes he opened his chute at once. Source did not see A/C after getting out.

3. Hungarian Hospital at Veszprem (4707 N - 1768 E)
Hungarian Royal Military Hospital No. 11 at Budapest

4. On the way down, source was buzzed twice by an ME 110. Each time the A/C came straight at source, who dodged by spilling air from his chute (source was told later by some Hungarian pilots that they had seen several such cases, where a pilot clipped shroud lines on a chute as a form of sport). Source landed in a wheat field at the north west corner of Lake Balaton.

He was found by civilians, who beat him with scythes, pitchforks, hoes, etc. Hungarian gendarmerie, or home guards, arrived and rescued him from the civilians, and, in spite of his wounded leg, marched him down to a police station. Source was refused first aid. He was interrogated as to his target, and slapped when he refused to answer this and other questions. A few minutes later, others from source's and other crews were taken in a German truck, with German guards, to a civilian hospital at Veszprem. All of source's valuables had been taken by the gendarmerie, who laughed when he asked for a receipt.

SECRET

Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt. USA/SKP/667 (continued)

At the hospital, all of the wounded men were hospitalized and treated well, while the rest of the men were taken off to some prison camp. Source stayed in the hospital seven or eight days and believes they did their best for him. Suffering severe burns and wounds, source and other men were transferred by street car and train, to the Royal Hungarian Hospital No. 11 Gombos Gyula Utca (near the Vérmező) in Budapest, where he remained as prisoner patient until liberated on 7 February 1945 by the Russian Army.

After arriving at the hospital the first week in July, the source, who is Jewish himself, heard that Jews all over Hungary were being herded into Budapest, some of them from as far as Transylvania. In September, visitors to the hospital told the source that ghettos had been established all over Pest, walls had been constructed around them, and the Jews had been left there to starve. Many were found shot in groups of two's and three's in doorways. Many were impressed into labor battalions, and the wounded from these battalions were brought to the hospital. Here they were segregated, being treated by Jewish doctors, who were not allowed to treat non-Jewish patients. The Christian doctors were not allowed to treat Jewish patients. This order had prevailed from July on.

The source's underground contact, said that he had seen 300 Jews herded to the Danube and shot by men, then weighted down and thrown into the Danube. On December 10, the source heard from Tocay that thousands of bodies with the Jewish yellow star were breaking loose from their moorings and floating in the Danube.

Attached herewith are pertinent excerpts from a letter carried by the source, written about the article of February 1945 by a Jewish family of Budapest to relatives in New York.

Extracts from letter

From: Foro Chaura Optics Budapest
Ferenciek-tere 2

To: Mr. Martin Weiss, Refrigeration Service
Liberty Ave. 150 (1050)
Jamaica, New York.

SECRET

Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt. USA/SKP/667 (continued)

To tell it in order, the cyclone caught me a year ago, with the German occupation, power was seized by the traitors of the country, the persecutors of the Jews. They chased us out of our villa on St. Gellért, we had to leave everything within 24 hours. The store had to be closed, but wages for the personnel, rent and taxes, had to be paid under penalty of interment. Evenings we were afraid to undress, for we were waiting in torture for the men of the Gestapo, to be taken to a place from where there is no return. We had to put on the yellow star, were allowed to live in designated houses, and could go to streets only between 1 and 5 PM.

Our blackest turning point was October 15. Horthy's government failed and the Arrow Cross terror started. They withdrew every concession; they fenced the ghetto and closed there 80,000 Jews, without food, water, electricity and gas. With cruel shrewdness they have searched out those hiding, and every night organized programs^(sic) (pogroms). About 20,000 men and women were handed over to the Germans, of these we do not know a thing. It seems they have disappeared forever.

After we were tortured by these things to the end of endurance, the siege of Budapest started. And it lasted six weeks. We had to stretch our strength to the limit to bear the many privations. We kept the secret from each other that we were hungry. We told each other to carry on, that we have to see the end of it. And we lived to see the day. The Russians took the town and we were released from the ghetto, but outside we could only see a heap of ruins. Our store was robbed, our house as well. Small belongings were left here and there. But I do not complain. Thank God that all three of us escaped.

So far I have only written about ourselves, but those from the provinces have their own tragedy. They were deported in closed cars, and we will only know after peace treaty who is alive among them. For these the guilty parties will have to suffer; we talk about it, those who are left alive. Three weeks ago we came here to Kecskemét with Évi, for there is starvation in Budapest. Laci stayed in Budapest for the time being, trying to get to our valuables.

We try to recover and forget those experiences of hell. One thing is sure, that we cannot remain here in Hungary, for we have to start again, and it would be suicide in this country. We are asking you to attempt securing

SECRET

Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt. USA/SKP/667 (continued)

entry for us to America. There are no Legations here; we cannot take a step without assistance. Perhaps it would be possible through Palestine, or with the help of Alex Acél to Buenos Aires. (end of letter)

Medical Conditions During Siege of Budapest.

Professor Fornát, an intestinal specialist from the University of Debrecen and a member of Hospital No. 11 staff, told source the last week of December during the siege of Budapest that among the 4000 German wounded housed in Gellért tunnel, there were several cases of typhus.

At No. 11 hospital itself, there were over 100 cases of para-typhoid among about 2000 patients and refugees who spent the last five weeks of the siege in the first-floor air-raid shelter of the hospital. During this period they had only one meal a day and undrinkable water. Medicine was very scarce.

Hospital sanitation even before the siege was poor. The staff was lackadaisical. The doctors were just out of school. Nurses and attendants handled bandages and instruments with bare hands, and used the same instruments on various patients without sterilization between times.

Source remained at the Royal Hungarian Hospital No. 11 until 7 February when was again wounded (see Appendix 8) and then by evacuation through a series of Russian hospitals, source was finally placed in Kecskemét Hospital, where he was contacted by members of the American Bomber crew that flew him out 9 March 1945.

Beginning of December 25 during the siege of Budapest, the Russians showered the city with plane-borne leaflets urging surrender. These were mostly in the form of articles by the Hungarian Generals Miklós and Veres.

The Russians were not firing on Hungarian soldiers, in order to facilitate their desertion, and the Germans were providing German uniforms to the Hungarian soldiery. From Lt. Col. Pasztahy, the source learned that the German commander had wired to Berlin requesting to capitulate and was told to fight to the end.

Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt. USA/SKP/667 (continued)

The Royal Hungarian Hospital was a primary target because the Germans had placed guns around the hospital and had been using it both as a communications center and as a point upon which to parachute supplies. On February 1, the battle line extended through the hospital grounds, which had suffered a total of about 1000 hits. After the Germans were finally driven out, the Russians immediately began looting, and many were seen with jewelry and watches. They attempted to molest the nurses, several of whom ran to the source for protection because he was an American. Source assumed officer ranking and ordered the soldiers away.

Russian Hospitals:

Source was very well and efficiently treated in all the Russian hospitals through which he was sent. The Russian doctors of which about half were women, were much older on the average than the Hungarian (doctors). There did not seem to be any shortage of nurses or medicine. Source was impressed by the speed and efficiency with which Russian wounded were evacuated away from the front.

Impressments of Hungarian Labor:

At Budapest, Dunaharaszti, and Kecskemét, where the source was moved and hospitalized by the Russians from 6 February to 9 March 1945, he observed that all types of Hungarians were impressed from the streets into labor battalions regardless of their occupations or personal affairs. This forced labor sometimes lasted 2 or 3 days, and usually they had to provide their own food.

Russian Requisitions, and food, and equipment:

Along the way from Budapest to Soroksár and Kecskemét, the Russians drove off cattle along the highways without payment to the farmers, and with no system of recording the requisitions. At Soroksár a rather poor peasant woman to who (sic) (whom) the Source spoke in German (she was not a swabian) said that the Russians had taken her meager livestock of 10 cows, her pigs, and chickens, without payment. The general opinion of about 20 country persons, to whom the Source spoke, was that the land was being completely stripped of what was left of livestock that the Germans had not taken.

Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt. USA/SKP/667 (continued)

Because of this living on the land, the Russians were everywhere very well fed, eating meat three times a day, and having wine at every meal. The Hungarians themselves maintained that they had no wine. Russian officers spoke of this use of Hungarian food as a matter of course in the war, and said it as repayment to the Hungarians for the war.

The only good mobile equipment that the Source saw was American vehicles – jeeps, Studebaker and Dodge trucks, some of which proved to have the USA mark on the right side of the hood marked out. The Russian vehicles were antiquated wrecks.

Financial Intelligence:

Source obtained 20 pengős for blue seal dollars in July; by October it was possible to get 120 for 1 dollar. During the siege 300 pengős were offered. In Kecskemét 300 to 400 for a dollar was the market value. Local people preferred the old Hungarian money to the Russian invasion notes.

J. C. RAMSEY.
Capt., Air Corps,
Interrogator.

ROBERT HAMILTON
Co B. 2677th Regt

5 Incls:

Incl 1, Ltr 363.d
Incl 2-5, Appendix B,D,E,F.

SECRET

Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt. USA/SKP/667 (continued)

APPENDIX B

THE HUNGARIAN UNDERGROUND.

The source believes that there was no general organization of the underground in Budapest. Before the middle of November, when all the fliers except the source were evacuated to Germany, offers for aid were so immature that no one of the fliers at the hospital attempted to escape. After that time, the source and others at the hospital made contact with what appeared to be isolated groups specializing in escape (see Dr. Ernő Vida, below) and in sabotage (see János Tócsy, below).

The escape groups specialized in certain forged documents and clothing necessary to impersonate Hungarian soldiers on furlough – furlough papers, soldiers' books, soldiers' caps and armbands (the entire uniform being unnecessary). In all, the source believes that the hospital groups aided 250 – 300 Hungarian officers to desert.

The ordinary "Igazolvány" form, filled out only on one side was still in use in December. Also the "Urlaubachein" form. Also the regular Christian birth certificate, which was forged to provide Jews with the means of Christian identity.

Underground Personnel.

Dr. Ernő Vida, eye specialist at the Royal Hospital, Czechoslovak by birth; home address: Albert utca 84. In July D. Vida listened to BBC and gave news to the boys. He was transferred to #10 hospital in August, but on returning in November he told the source of his underground organization called "Makos", which appeared to be proficient in forging papers, arranging escape, and other underground activities. After November, Dr. Vida had

SECRET

Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt. USA/SKP/667 (continued)

prepared escape plans for deserting Hungarians and for fliers who might be coming in. He had all necessary papers and stamps, soldiers caps and armbands (all that was necessary for impersonation of furloughed Hungarian soldiers). In this activity he was aided by his brother, a sergeant deserted from the Hungarian Army. Dr. Vida also provided Christian birth certificates to the source for use of Éva Zabroy's Jewish friends. In December seven high members of Dr. Vida's organization were arrested and executed by the Gestapo. After Christmas, he did not appear at the hospital, and the source assumes that he had gone over to the Russians.

Lassle Eggenhofer, clerk in the eye clinic; home address: Budapest XII Cambos Gyula u 49/b III/8. Pro-Allied from the beginning, but did not join Vida's group until November. Erased the source's name from the shipment list 18-19 December 1944. Left on Christmas to go to his family in Esztergom, which had then been occupied by the Russians.

Dr. Sukavarahy, in charge of prisoners. Very pro-Allied; delayed the shipment of many fliers for months. However, during the siege of Budapest he marries a nurse of the Ear and Nose clinic who was, according to Vida and Eggenhofer, a Gestapo agent, member of the Arrow Cross. She is blond and wears thick glasses. Name unknown. On December 24 he went to her apartment in Budapest to live during the siege.

Countess Gabrielle Széchény, Austrian, head nurse; home address: Budapest XII Cambos Gyula u 49/b, Apt. III/1. Aided in plans to hide fliers in private homes in Budapest. Tried to prevent shipments by placing fliers under the Swedish Red Cross. Distrusted Count Craig, but worked with him because he seemed sincere. Went to see the last group of fliers entrained for Austria at the risk of her life. Still at hospital at time source left.

James Tócsy, a lieutenant of the Hungarian Army, lived at the hospital as a patient, but was well. Member of an underground sabotage group of young Hungarians Army officers; asked source for military information which source secured from German wounded. Source provided Tócsy with Vida's forged documents. Lived in Pest during the siege.

SECRET

Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt. USA/SKP/667 (continued)

Éva Zabrey, X-ray department assistant; home address: Clasz Faser I. Gave source a letter from Pilot Officer R. Barrett, an escaped PW known as "Darky", head of an underground escape group, concerning plans for escape of Allied fliers. Associated with Elizabeth Mike, but not with Dr. Vida. Went home during siege; bombed out and went elsewhere in Pest.

Elizabeth Mike, X-ray technician; home Address; Budapest III, Ker. Szépvölgyi – utca 26 FS. Gave source a letter from a Dutch officer "Dutchy" saying that Barrett had left and to plan escape thenceforth with him. (Ed. Note: Dutch officers hiding out in Budapest were outstanding escape experts in the underground. See H Report No 18). Source replied to Dutchy through Mike, suggesting a contact with Dr. Vida. Miss Mike went home during the siege.

Prof. A Kettesy, chief of the Eye clinic at Hospital No. 11, director of Eye Clinic at University of Debrecen, on staff of Royal Hospital. Gave source the run of the hospital grounds without guard after November 17, when he was assigned to the eye clinic. Prevented source from being sent to Germany with last group of fliers on November 17. Pro-Allied. Remained at the hospital during the siege.

Csády, Lt. Col., Commandant of the hospital. Very Pro-Allied, helpful to the fliers.

Leichtner, or Leitna, Lt. Col., Vice-Commander of the hospital. Very pro-Allied; helpful to the fliers. Prevented the Germans from entering the hospital with arms. Appealed to German Commander not to fortify the hospital during the siege of Budapest; appeal was refused.

Kovassy, Gyula, candidate officer of the Hungarian Army, a deserter hidden as a patient at the hospital by Dr. Kettesy; home address: Debrecen, Egymalom utca 3. Appeared to be member of an underground group, and asked source for military information. After December 26, Kovassy said he evacuated his own family westward with the Germans to save them from the siege. Remained at the hospital during the siege.

Countess Lottie Keglevitch. Visited hospital, Pro-Allied. Said she helped Hungarian officers hide in Budapest.

SECRET

Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt. USA/SKP/667 (continued)

Lt. Col. Artura Pasztchy, a patient at the hospital, Commander of the Royal Guard; home address: Budapest, Attila Krt 4. Gave food to source and was good source of general information. Spoke English; was 15 years in Canada. Said he had given the order for the Palace Guards to fire on Germans during Horthy's attempt to oust the Germans. Remained at the hospital during the siege.

Kiss, György, wine merchant, Okl Gasda E.N.V.T.U – Veseto; home address: Budapest IX Üllői – út 91, I EM 8. Visited source on Christmas day and asked him to hide at this home. Said he was born in America.

Pro-Allied (Not underground)

Dr. Smelansky, Polish X-ray specialist. Elderly, pro-Allied captain in the Polish Army. Released from status as POW to work on staff. Lived at hospital with family.

Russian Personalities in Kecskemét.

Major N. D. Zigalkin, Commanding Officer of the Air Battalion at Kecskemét, is something of a legendary figure with the Russians. His power is apparently far greater than ordinarily associated with similar rank. Stories of his good treatment of Americans have been brought back by all the returning airmen. Major Zigalkin's battalion is completely self-sufficient with service troops and entertainment facilities for the soldiers. Zigalkin's civilian wife was with him in Kecskemét, as were the wives of many of the other higher ranking Russians officers. The Major told source this when Vienna was taken it would be his next post. (Photograph attached).

Capt. Moore, a Russian whom the source met in Kecskemét, said that he was an American who had spent 25 years in Cleveland and had returned to Russia just before the outbreak of war for a visit. During the visit he was drafted into the Russian Army. Since he spoke excellent English he was helpful in interpreting the wants of the airmen to the Russians. Moore spoke quite derogatively of the Russian system and expressed the desire to escape from them back to the USA.

SECRET

Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt. USA/SKP/667 (continued)

APPENDIX D

Pro-Nazi Personnel:

Count Andre Orazagy, member of the Home Defense. Visited the hospital and talked very pro-Allied. Had a van, papers, and clearance at his disposal, and made very elaborate plans for escape by air, but nothing of this ever materialized. He implied that the final evacuation of fliers on 17 November 1944 was a plan to escape, and the fliers thought up to the last minute that they were escaping, when in reality they were being shipped to Germany.

Countess Huberta Széchény, volunteer nurse. Elderly woman, and the mother of the pro-Allied Countess Gabrielle Széchény. Lived at the hospital during the siege.

Lt. Col. ____ (name unknown), Hungarian, old, a patient at the hospital. Remained after the siege of Budapest. During the siege this man kept insisting that the American airmen (the source) be shot.

ENEMY PROPAGANDA IN HUNGARY:

Germans spread propaganda that American bombers were dropping explosive fountain pens, pencils, dools (sic.) (dolls), toys, etc., over Hungarian towns. Hungarians reported that this caused beating and killing of American airmen. Hungarians were told, in newspapers and posters, that it was their duty to kill any American they saw coming down by chute, as these men were coming down only to kill Hungarians. This held true even if men were bailing out a burning A/C. Many men were in hospital who had landed safely.

The propaganda campaign against airmen had already been in effect a long time before the source's arrival in June 1944. A soon as he landed by parachute in a seriously burned condition, he was attacked by peasants with pitchforks and spades and almost beaten to death. He was saved only by the Hungarian military.

SECRET

Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt. USA/SKP/667 (continued)

During his stay in Hospital #11, he followed the propaganda campaign closely, since as a newspaper man and a victim he took a special interest in the subject. Atrocity stories concerning American airmen appeared regularly in the newspapers and magazines, such as Pester Lloyd, Szikra, and the German addition Signal.

These articles were all in the nature of press releases indicating a common source. The same themes were reiterated: Americans are barbarians, American fliers are a low type of humanity – Jews, Indians, etc. These stories often dealt with other aspects of propaganda, such as the post-war aims of the Allies to divide and to despoil Germany. One common story was that each flier received \$1,000.00 per mission and \$2,500.00 at the end of 25 missions and then go home to live a life of luxury. The “victory girl” campaign indicated that there were two girls allotted each for the crew’s pleasure on return to the airport. One of the posters complemented this theme by showing the girls waiting at he airport.

The source believes that almost every article singled out Jewish flyers for vilification. He also believes that few Jewish flyers escaped being killed on landing if they did not hide their identity as Jews.

At the time of the Cabinet change in July and continuing under Szálasi, the anti-airmen campaign was relaxed except in the German magazines. This indicates to the source that the campaign may have been instigated by the Arrow Cross Party (Nyilas) rather than by the Germans. In July, the story that airmen were dropping explosive toys and other articles was retracted in the Hungarian newspapers, and it was maintained that this was done by the Jews of Budapest.

According to the source, there was no anti-Negro campaign. A Negro flier in the Royal Hospital was treated as well if not better than other Allied patients, being an object of curiosity.

The poster campaign, part of which was anti-airman, was very widespread, the posters appearing on barns, in all public meeting places. When the Germans came in October, no new posters appeared, although the old ones remained. This also indicated to the source that the campaign was

SECRET

Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt. USA/SKP/667 (continued)

primarily instigated by Hungarian, not German authorities. (Source brought one poster with him). After October, Hungarian periodicals no longer carried anti-Allied material, although pro-German articles appeared. German magazines continued the propaganda campaign until Budapest was taken. One article had picture showing the excellent treatment of Allied airmen in German hospitals.

Effect of the anti-airman campaign on Hungarians:

Public opinion, including the middle and working classes and especially the peasantry, was seriously affected. Fliers were mistreated all over the county. Jews were usually killed immediately if they did not hide their identity. Since the source was in no condition to hide his dog tags marked "H", he was at first mistreated in the hospital by anti-Semitic nurses.

In an unidentified southern jail, one entire crew was stripped (Probably to determine by circumcision whether or not they were Jewish), made to lie on the floor, and beaten with sticks by the gendarmeries. Of this crew, Lt. Ericson, 2nd Lt. Lambert, and S/Sgt. Charles Hobinson landed in the Budapest hospital, where source learned of the matter.

The source believes that only the professionals, the intelligentsia, and upper classes who were not pro-German before the war disbelieved the propaganda campaign. Source believes that propaganda had a greater effect in the country than in the cities because of the lower level of intelligence and lack of independent judgment. As the Russians approached, however, the source observed and heard from others outside the hospital of opinion becoming increasing pro-Allied. Anti-German feeling became bitter as the Germans looted on their retreat. By the beginning of November, the Russians were welcomed.

SECRET

Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt. USA/SKP/667 (continued)

APPENDIX E

Shipment of Allied Airmen to POW Camps in Germany.

Source was the only American flier left out of the last group of Allied fliers at the Royal Hungarian Hospital No. 11. The others, 45 in number, were shipped by rail to Germany on the 17th of November 1944. Between July 8th, when the source arrived, and November 17th. about 300 Allied fliers, almost all of them Americans, were shipped from the Hospital to Austria or Germany. More than 300 were sent from the Budapest jail, where after capture they were usually kept five days and interrogated. Source estimates about 700 in all, mostly Americans, were sent from the city jail and this hospital.

Every week a van came from the city jail with fliers from there, and the Allied flier hospital cases that were well enough to travel were taken away with them. Loads varied from 5 to 20 per week, although some weeks none were taken. It was fairly well established that they were taken to a railway station and went by train through Győr and Sopron to Vienna.

The name of the driver of the van is Szabó, an employee of the city jail and former Messerschmitt pilot who evidently accompanied them by rail to Vienna. He is tall, slender, with a hooked nose. He may be pro-Nazi, but he was friendly and brought back a note from Capt. John Dickey which said that he was living in Germany in a cell and that conditions were bad.

One of the Hungarian nurses, "Éva" (last name unknown), who was in love with one of the fliers, followed his shipment to Vienna where she learned that the fliers were imprisoned. She was not, however, permitted to see them. "Éva" is tall, slender, pretty, dark brown hair, brown eyes, cleft chin, age about 21. She is know by Dr. Sukavarthy, who was in charge of the prisoners at the hospital.

On February 6, the day Buda was taken, the source request the sergeant in charge of hospital records to make a complete list of Allied flier patients for the 15th Air Force Battle Casualty section, which he promised to do within two days. However, source was wounded by machine gun fire the next day while going to get the list and was evacuated by the Russians. He was not permitted to return for the list.

SECRET

Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt. USA/SKP/667 (continued)

APPENDIX F

S.Sgt. John Nagle, unharmed, and 2nd. Lt. Elder A Erfeldt, 2nd Lt. Barrowcliff, 2nd Lt. Matthew L Hendricks, 2nd Lt., Hershall Brown, and T/Sgt. John L Lenburg, all wounded, were sent to Germany. These are members of Source' crew.

A/C piloted by Capt. White was in formation with source's A/C. Source saw this A/C blow up in mid-air with a very violent explosion, and believes all men were killed. No man from this crew came through the hospital.

2nd. Lts. Scanlon, Becker and Friedman from one crew were taken prisoner. They told source that 2nd. Lt. Evans crashed with A/C. This A/c was from source's squadron.

Daniel Whistler, from source's group (knocked down in the same raid) was shipped to Germany 17 November.

Pilot 2nd. Lt. Richard L. Carroll and Thomas O'Connor (same crew); 2nd Lt. Hugh Mcgee (pilot), Jacques Le Poutre and Maurice Plante (same crew); 2nd Lt. Roger Bullard and Gene Dosnier, and the navigator (same crew); 2nd Lt. Roger Lambert and Gunner Charles Robinson (same crew); 2nd Lt. Clyde L. Jones, Jr. 0-760324 (P-38 pilot); Captain John R. Dickey, 0-726341; Major Neil Lamont, 0-399730 (P-51 pilot); 2nd Lt. Fredris Rosemore (telephone 4-4088, Birmingham, Ala.); Sgt Roger E. Niemann (1523 First Ave. Nebraska City, Neb.); Sgt. Victor Lemle (828 Mason St., Toledo, Ohio); 2nd Lt. William Norhaus, Jr. (15 West 75th St., New York); 1st Lt. Henry Grove (2461 Amsterdam Ave., New York City; 1st. Lt. Gary Johnson, Sgt. Robert Previto (Mobile, Ala.); 1st Lt. Harold Tomlison (San Francisco, Calif); 2nd Lt. Edward Wagner (Portland, Oregon); Sgt. Tony De Luca (Jersey City N.J.); Sgt. Samuel Nuccio, Sgt. Joseph Michaud (Springfield, Mass); Sgt. James Lynch (North Bergen, N.J.); 2nd Lt. William Hiatt, Sgt. William Lamb (Tennessee or Kentucky), 1st Lt. Samuel Winfree (Florida), 1st. Lt. Claude Rhodes, 1st. Lt. Willard Graham (Greenwich, Conn.); died of neglect in hospital), Sgt. Paul Bertram (Minneapolis, Minn.), all passed through the hospital and were sent to Germany on or before 17 November 1944.

SECRET

Bernhardt, Leonard, S/Sgt. USA/SKP/667 (continued)

Other records of men are still in the military hospital No 11 at Budapest. Source had a men copying them but he was shipped out too soon.

APPENDIX F (continued)

British Empire Personnel encountered in the Royal Hungarian Hospital #11 by the source:

Serfontein, Capt. Francis	SAAF
Hamilton, Sgt. "Scotty"	RAF
Curtis, Sgt. Rupert	RAF
Patriarca, Sgt.	RAF
Ludbom, F/O Hubert	RCAF
Thomas, Lt. Mike	Canadian Army

Thomas was known to hospital authorities as an American, though his English was very poor. He admitted to Source his mission and circumstances of capture. From the time of their first meeting around 10 December 1944, until they were evacuated by the Russians 7 February 1945, they were in frequent communication. Source met Lt. Thomas again in Kecskemét, where they were billeted together until his departure for Italy on 9 March 1945. Thomas was evacuated to Italy from Debrecen 17 March 1945.

End of Official Record

E-Mail 4/20/09

Aircraft B-24. H-10. serial number 41-29291. 760st Squadron. Call letter "V". The aircraft's nickname was "MISS FORTUNE". Photographs and crew list courtesy of Duane Bohnstedt, Historian for the 460th Bomb Group, with permission.

Erfeldt, Elder A. Pilot. POW. Deceased.
Barrowcliff, Alan P. Co pilot. POW. Deceased.
Hendricks, Matthew L. Navigator. POW. Deceased.
Brown, Marshall "Mike" J. Bombardier. POW. Deceased.
Lenburg, John L. Flight Engineer. POW. Deceased.
Nagle, John M. Asst. Flight Engineer/Gunner. POW. Deceased.
Wheeler, Ralph F. Radio Operator/Gunner. KIA.
Waites, Rube J. Asst. Radio Operator/Gunner. KIA.
Troy, Martin F. Gunner. KIA.
Bernhardt, Leonard "Pappy" Gunner. POW. Deceased.

* "Pappy" was older than most of us, he was born 14 October 1914 and he died in October 1980. We knew all of the survivors and saw all of them after the war except for "Pappy" Bernhardt. The entire crew is now deceased. I remember "Pappy" coming to me one morning to ask if I would paint "PAPPY" on the tail turret of "MISS FORTUNE". I did.

The Escape Statement for Bernhardt pretty well covers a lot of his time with the 460th and after he was shot down. There are a couple more things that I can add. After he was freed he was returned to Italy and was placed in a hospital in Naples. I intended to visit him there, but never did. I was told by some who did that he was horribly burned. As I recall his ears were burned off along with much of his nose. What a horrible thing to have to live with, but he did. His sister lived in the Miami area.

There is another thing about this crew that was finally put to rest about six months ago, you probably heard about it. Martin Troy, a gunner with the crew was never accounted for, but we believed that he was still in the wreckage. John Lenburg took this on and worked until his death in 2000 to resolve it. We managed with the help of Hungarian researchers to recover a few pieces of bone a number of years ago, and I sent them to the *Central Intelligence Laboratory Hawaii* to see if they could identify them as those of Martin. Nothing came of it until a year or so ago when a team from the *Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command* went to Hungary and mounted an in depth search. They found enough remains to identify Troy and they were buried at *Arlington National Cemetery* last November. Jerry Conlon, bombardier on one of the other planes lost the same day, made several trips back to the crash site and was there when Troy's remains were recovered.

The date of the crash was 30 June 1944. In all we lost four planes that day, three west of Lake Balaton in the areas of Nemesvita, Szigliget & Vallus, Hungary The other one went down east of the lake at Szenna, Hungary. I think there are only a couple guys alive that were shot down that day.

Hungarian Accents added by the Transcriber

Transcribed from microfilm for readability.

Army Air Force Documents 1945, AFHRA, Maxwell AFB

*Additional Notes from Mr. Duane Bohnstedt, 460th Bomb Group Historian (4-20-09)

"PAPPY" BERNHARDT & "SID" ROTZ



Mr. Bernhardt on the left at the Base

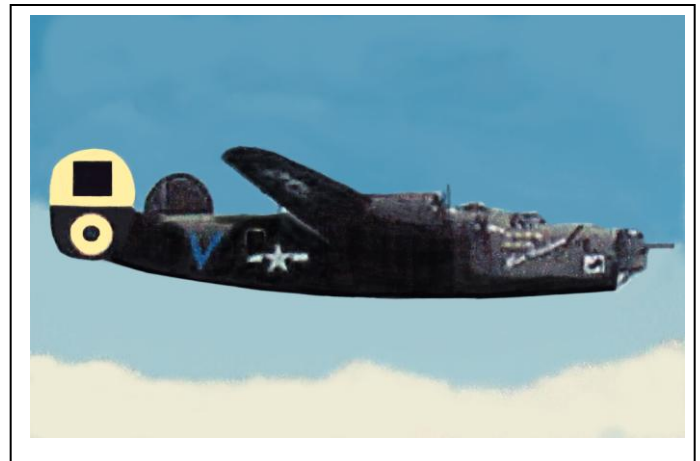


E. Erfeldt and crew M. Brown

Mr Bernhardt (standing 2nd from the right)



ERFELDT CREW MEMBERS HITCHIKING TO BARI. TROY, BERNHARDT, NAGLE & WAIT WITH THREE ITALIAN KIDS.



"MISS FORTUNE" #41-29291

Photographs provided by the 460th. Bomb Group Historian with permission.